

Atlantic Salmon Federation Submission to The Task Force on the Planning and Development of Marine Aquaculture in Maine

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ASF MISSION STATEMENT

The Atlantic Salmon Federation (ASF)
is an international non-profit organization
which promotes the conservation
and wise management of the wild Atlantic salmon
and its environment



Part I - ASF Aquaculture Strategy

- Effective regulation of aquaculture operations to attain responsible, environmentally sustainable aquaculture
- Develop effective working relationships with the aquaculture industry and governments
- Advocate salmon farming exclusion zones

Effective Regulation

Definition:

Environmentally Sustainable Aquaculture

“ Maintenance of healthy stocks of wild Atlantic salmon (meeting spawning escapement) and striving to attain a zero environmental impact aquaculture industry (disease, escapement, containment) water quality. ”

Effective Regulation

ASF Regulatory Review :

Purpose:

1. Review existing aquaculture and aquaculture-related environmental legislation/regulations
2. Identify the strengths and weaknesses of existing legislation/regulations
3. Draft legislative/regulatory proposals

Effective Regulation

ASF Regulatory Review :

- **26 Recommendations**
- **Five Categories:**
 - Part I - Licensing – Site Criteria
 - Part II – Escape
 - Part III – Farm and Fish Health
 - Part IV – Waste Discharge
 - Part V – Enforcement Mechanism

Effective Regulation

ASF Regulatory Review (cont'd)

Process Issues:

- a) Regulatory processes must be transparent
- b) Regulators accountable for openness and due diligence
- c) Regulated interests being accountable for performance

Cooperation and Problem-Solving

- Foster and maintain constructive and cooperative working relationships with industry and regulators to identify solutions to problems
- ASF experience working with forestry, agriculture, mining and commercial fishing to solve problems
- Limited gains with aquaculture industry

Salmon Farming Exclusion Zones

- Separation to support conservation
- All rivers of Maine and southwest New Brunswick
Class III & endangered or threatened
- Reasonable way to effect salmon conservation where
salmon farming not yet established
- Primary candidate is Penobscot River

Part II - NASCO Protocols

- NASCO focus on commercial salmon fisheries, habitat issues and salmonid aquaculture
- Large body of science-based guidance for management of salmon farming industry
- Task Force should consider NASCO guidelines
- Opportunity for the Task Force to be proactive

NASCO Guidance

Agreement on Adoption of a Precautionary Approach

NASCO Precautionary Approach:

The absence of adequate scientific information should not be used as a reason for postponing or failing to take conservation and management measures.

NASCO Precautionary Approach

Requirements:

- Consider future generations & avoid changes not potentially reversible
- Prior identification of undesirable outcomes & measures to avoid them
- Initiate corrective measures without delay
- Conserve productive capacity of the resource
- Appropriate placement of burden of proof

NASCO Precautionary Approach

Goals :

- Stocks maintained above the conservation limits
- Conservation limits & management targets for each river
- Prior identification of undesirable outcomes
- Account for risks
- Pre-agreed management actions
- Assess effectiveness of management actions
- Stock rebuilding programs

Oslo Resolution

Resolution to minimize impacts from salmon aquaculture on wild salmon stocks

- Comprehensive recommendations to control and minimize impacts of salmon farming on wild salmon
 - a) Regulatory requirements for siting salmon aquaculture operations
 - b) Management of aquaculture units
 - c) Precautions to prevent escapes of fish

NAC Protocols on Introductions & Transfers

- Creates zoning and classification of rivers
- No marine sites within 30km of Class I river
- All rivers require protection
- Separation is necessary to conservation

Recommendations

1. Aquaculture regulatory processes be transparent
 - Regulatory agencies accountable for openness and due diligence
 - Regulated interests being accountable performance
2. Task Force should recommend creation of a wild salmon protection area in Penobscot Bay.
3. Adopt NASCO guidelines on salmon farm siting and operation.

Recommendations

4. Adopt NASCO Precautionary Approach to management of the aquaculture industry in Maine.
5. Adopt and implement Oslo Resolution measures as quickly as possible.
6. Adopt stringent rules and procedures for managing introduction and transfer of aquatic species in Maine, with stakeholder participation, transparency and accountability.



THANK YOU